14 October 2015

Principal’s Report

As this is my first newsletter as Principal of Mount Annan High School, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself and speak to you about my vision for the school in the coming years. My first impressions of the school have been extremely positive, with the warm welcome I have received from students and staff making it very easy to ‘settle in’. Special thanks go to Mrs Kovac, who did an outstanding job as Relieving Principal over the past year and whose assistance to me as I came into the role has been invaluable. I feel very fortunate to be the leader of a fantastic school community like Mount Annan.

I start at Mount Annan after 30 years in education, beginning my career at Airds High School, where I was an English/History teacher and Head Teacher, before moving to Lurnea High School, where I was Deputy Principal for 7 years. For the past 8 years I have been Principal at Sir Joseph Banks High School at Revesby and during that time I have also worked within the Department of Education as an Acting Director and Principal School Leadership. Each of these roles have allowed me to broaden my range of experiences and have taught me the importance of building strong, positive relationships with all members of the school community, as well as the need for high expectations for students to aspire to. It is these experiences and beliefs that I will call on to lead the school into the future.

There are a number of areas I wish to focus on in the months and years ahead and I have shared these with the staff.

- That Mount Annan High School will become ‘the school of first choice’ for students in the local area within the next few years and that the talents and achievements of those students are promoted extensively across the local and wider community.
- That I will immediately set about building the partnerships which I see as being crucial to the success of the school. This will begin by working closely with my colleagues at the partner primary schools in the area, such as Mount Annan Public School, Currans Hill Public School and Oran Park Public School, to ensure that there is a natural and seamless transition from their school to ours, and in doing so, ensure that the school receives a higher proportion of its ‘in-area’ students.
- I will ensure that Mount Annan High School joins the alliance of Macarthur secondary schools which currently exists to present a ‘united front’ for Public Education in the area and ensure we are represented in any discussions regarding matters which may impact upon the school or its’ students.
- I will use my existing links with the universities and the corporate sector to build new partnerships for the school, with the aim of increasing access to higher education and providing opportunities to expand the horizons of our students regarding career and post-school study options.
- I will work with the staff to ensure that classroom practice is of the highest standard and that that practice is based upon quality programming.
- I will ensure that our students have access to the most up to date, relevant technology, so that they may be connected to the wider world of learning and be better prepared for the world beyond the school gates.
- I will build capacity and foster leadership growth, with all staff and students encouraged to be a leader, whether that is within their classrooms, across the school or beyond to the wider community.

During my years of working with students in schools, it is clear that they succeed in reaching their potential when there is a strong partnership between the school and their parents or carers, based on mutual respect and support for one another. Where this exists and open communication takes place, it allows everyone to be working towards that common goal. I would encourage all parents and carers to take the time out of their busy lives to show their children that they value their learning and progress at school. Whether that involves attendance at the numerous events the school runs, such as Parent Teacher Nights, P&C meetings or Nights of Excellence or simply having a conversation about their class work or assignments, your child knows that education is important to you and they are more likely to succeed as a result.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet as many of you as possible over the coming months and I thank you for entrusting your children to our school.

Brad Mitchell
Principal
**P&C Report**

On Saturday 29 August the P&C held a fundraising BBQ at Bunnings. We would like the following people for donating their time on the day.

- Zac Bruce
- Rachel Zappia
- Sarah Bruce
- Scott Hayes
- Steve Bruce
- April Bruce
- Lauren Phillips
- Robyn Hunt
- Brad Mitchell
- Randall Twine
- Kristie Harris
- Maree Kovac
- Keith Johnson
- Sam Gardner
- Michelle Delaney
- David Ackermann
- Brooke Groat

See you all at the next meeting …

*Regards*

*David Ackermann*

**Bus Trip**

The P&C Shopping Trip fundraiser is happening this Saturday 17 October, there are still seats left on the bus. If you are interested in coming along please be at the front of the school at 7.30am SATURDAY MORNING. We are visiting at least 10 factory outlets and having lunch at the Southern Cross Hotel.

Cost: $55

*Michelle Delaney*

**Fundraising Co-ordinator**

**Coffee Fundraiser**

Mount Annan High School is seeking expressions of interest for a new fundraising idea called Coffee for a Cause.

The company is a small artisan coffee roaster, Bliss Coffee, located in the Hunter Valley, NSW.

It makes a great Christmas gift for friends and family members.

All coffee is roasted to order, arriving at its freshest.

Bag size is 450g. Cost per bag is $19.00. Each bag will have a Mount Annan High School logo on it.

All coffees are 100% Arabica. Coffee can be ground at no additional charge. The standards are espresso and plunger, however, we accommodate any grind level.

Coffee is roasted 24 hours prior to dispatch, ensuring maximum freshness. All roasting is done in our custom built premises in the Hunter Valley.

If you wish to purchase please contact Brooke at the school office or Michelle Delaney, Fundraising Coordinator on 0425 327 229.

*Michelle Delaney*

**Fundraising Co-ordinator**

**Next P&C Meeting**

The next P&C meeting is on Tuesday, 20 October at 7:30pm in the school library. Please come and support your P&C.

**Upcoming Events**

- **Bronze Award BBQ:** Monday 19 October 2015
- **P&C Meeting 7.30pm in Library:** Tuesday 20 October 2015
- **Year 7 Vaccinations:** Wednesday 28 October 2015
- **Year 11 UWS Day:** Wednesday 28 October 2015
- **TVET Outdoor Rec Camp:** Thursday 29 October 2015 till Friday 6 November 2015
- **Extra TASTER Day:** Thursday 29 October 2015
- **Year 7 & 8 Exams:** Monday 2 November 2015 till Friday 6 November 2015
- **Year 11 Legal Excursion:** Monday 2 November 2015
- **UOW Science Fair:** Wednesday 4 November 2015
- **Year 9 & 10 Exams:** Monday 9 November 2015 till Friday 13 November 2015
- **Year 12 Formal:** Wednesday 11 November 2015
- **Year 12 Sign Out & Graduation:** Monday 16 November 2015
- **Year 10 – All My Own Work:** Thursday 19 November 2015
- **Girls and Boys Day:** Friday 20 November 2015
- **Musical Production Week:** Monday 23 November 2015 till Friday 27 November 2015
- **Year 8 G&T Science Excursion:** Wednesday 25 November 2015
- **Year 10 Senior School Preparation Talk:** Thursday 26 November 2015
- **Year 10 Skills Day:** Monday 30 November 2015
- **P&C Meeting 7.30pm in Library:** Tuesday 1 December 2015
- **Year 10 Taster Lessons:** Wednesday 2 December 2015
- **Sports Presentation Evening:** Wednesday 2 December 2015
TAS

Welcome to TAS for term 4 2015.

This is a very busy term for TAS students. TAS students will be finishing off design projects and completing written documentation to support the projects during the term.

It is extremely important that TAS students come prepared for TAS lessons. It is appropriate to remind students; their parents and caregivers to ensure that students have the appropriate equipment for class – during the holidays it is a great time to ensure pens; pencils; rulers etc are purchased again if necessary. It is also appropriate to ensure that closed in leather shoes be worn for all lessons.

Students are to have their diary for the recording of homework on the desk every TAS lesson. The completion of homework is an expectation of TAS teachers. The culture of “learning to succeed” in the faculty is further enhanced with the completion of regular homework and the appropriate use of time management skills.

Science

I hope that you all had a wonderful and relaxing holiday and are now ready to get back into your studies.

The Junior Yearly examinations are fast approaching and students should begin to fully prepare themselves for these examinations.

All Science students receive an Outcome Sheet at the start of each topic, which informs them of the content which they will be taught and hence tested on, throughout each topic. Students should utilise this sheet in conjunction with their class notes to prepare for the examination.

A few tips on how to study for examinations

- Make summary notes on each outcome of the Outcome Sheet using your class notes.
- Use your Science Dictionary (that all students have been provided with free of charge) to look up definitions and concepts to support your summaries if needed. (If you have lost your dictionary you may purchase one for $5, if you are a new enrolment and did not receive a free dictionary, please see Mrs Villanueva in the Science Department). This dictionary was created by the Science Faculty and complements our program and student outcomes.

Deputy Principal Report

I have recently completed twelve months as relieving Deputy Principal for Mrs Kovac.

Thank you for your support of me in this role. I have greatly enjoyed working with the school community in this capacity and I look forward to continuing our strong working relationships when I return to my substantive role as Head Teacher English.

My student cohorts, Years 7, 9 and 11, have been wonderful to work with and I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to get to know these students as Deputy Principal.

This term, the students in Year 11 have returned to begin their studies for the HSC and seem to have settled in very well, working conscientiously to organise study routines and engage with subject content.

I encourage all students to continue working hard and to maintain their focus as we approach the Yearly Examination period.

Mrs Donna Pooley
Relieving Deputy Principal

Student in TAS are reminded to set personal goals for learning during the term – students should be aiming to complete small sections of assessment tasks each week until the task is due. Every TAS teacher will help students complete assessment tasks by regularly scaffolding and checking progress on task completion until the due date. It is important that if students are struggling to complete any task that they seek the help of the TAS teacher regularly.

Technology is a great tool to assist with student learning at school and at home – it is appropriate however to mention that plagiarism is not an accepted practise in the TAS faculty. The best assessment tasks are where students are able to use text and put text in their own words. If text is to be “copied and pasted” into the assessment task it must be acknowledged and referenced appropriately.

Mobile phones are not to be used by students in class across the school. In TAS as in all other classes a mobile phone can only be used as an educational tool and only with the explicit direction of the teacher.

Stage 6 Hospitality students are reminded that course fees are due. As Year 11 enter Year 12 (term 4) it is appropriate to ask students to remember that course fees are due. Hospitality competencies are important – all weekly practicals are assessment tasks and it is important for students to have achieved competence in every aspect of the unit or cluster of study. The process of providing evidence is crucial to achieving competence in Hospitality.

Mrs N Maher
Head Teacher TAS

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Scientists are to have their diary for the recording of homework on the desk every TAS lesson. The completion of homework is an expectation of TAS teachers. The culture of “learning to succeed” in the faculty is further enhanced with the completion of regular homework and the appropriate use of time management skills.

• Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day: Thursday 3 December 2015
• Jamberoo Sports Reward Excursion: Friday 4 December 2015
• Year 10 Excursion Day: Tuesday 8 December 2015
• Silver Award Morning Tea: Thursday 10 December 2015
• Formal Year Assemblies: Wednesday 16 December 2015
• Gold Reward Excursion: Monday 14 December 2015
• Night of Excellence: Tuesday 15 December 2015

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Students are to have their diary for the recording of homework on the desk every TAS lesson. The completion of homework is an expectation of TAS teachers. The culture of “learning to succeed” in the faculty is further enhanced with the completion of regular homework and the appropriate use of time management skills.
• Re-do any topic tests or quizzes, ensure that you use the answers from when you went over these tests in class to mark your responses and ask your teacher for help if you still do not know how to answer some questions. (If you did not bother writing down the answers when you went over them in class, then you have more work to do now, as you will need to look the answers up in your Science book!).
• Make up rhymes or mnemonics, jingles or songs to remember facts and definitions. Utilise YouTube – to provide you with songs etc, however make sure that they are appropriate for you to learn and that they cover the same (accurate) content as we are studying.
• Complete any revision questions that your teacher provides you with BEFORE the due date, so that you can ask your teacher any questions which you are having difficulty with.
• If given a study guide for the exam – use it wisely. We would not spend the time to create an information sheet which outlines the concepts covered in the test, if it was not going to be worth your time studying them. Please revise all concepts which are on the Study Guide carefully.
• SEEK ASSISTANCE from your teacher. That’s what we are here for.

Examination format
As well as the literacy component and content based questions, each test will have a question (or three, for Year 10) on a Mandatory Practical, a variety of skills based questions and questions which will require students to apply their knowledge, not just restate facts.

Years 7-9
Duration – 50 minutes
10 marks Literacy component
10 marks Multiple choice questions
25 marks Short Answer questions
15 marks Mandatory Practical questions
Total Marks 60 Marks

Year 10
Duration – 1 ½ hours with 5 minutes reading time
10 marks Literacy component
20 marks Multiple choice questions
30 marks Short Answer questions
3 X 10 marks Mandatory Practical questions (There will be three Mandatory Practicals tested, one from each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
Total Marks 90 Marks

Examination Content
Year 7
All outcomes in the following topics
- Introduction to Science,
- Chemical World 1 – Matter,
- Physical World 1 – Energy,

Year 8
All Year 7 content (these questions will be in a smaller proportion than the Year 8 content, however they are necessary as it is a Stage 4 test and all content is also examinable in VALID and hence should be revised),
plus all outcomes form the following topics
- Living World 2A – Cells,
- Chemical World 2 – Chemical Changes,
- Living World 2B – Microorganisms and
- Physical World 2 – Forces.

Year 9
All outcomes on the following topics
- Physical World 3 – Energy,
- Living World 3A – Ecosystems,
- Chemical World 3 – Chemical reactions,
- Living World 3B – Coordination and Disease.

Year 10
All Year 9 work as this is a Stage 5 examination (the Year 9 component of the examination will be of a lower value than the Year 10 content tested).
All outcomes of the following topics
- Living World 4 – Genetics,
- Chemical World 4 – The Periodic Table,
- Physical World 4A – Motion and
- Physical World 4B – Electricity.

As this number of topics and outcomes can seem daunting to students when studying, the Science Faculty will produce a Revision Sheet for each Year group, to be completed by students and then discussed in class. This Revision sheet is meant to complement the examination preparation which students do individually, not replace it.

All students were provided with a Scope and Sequence which outlined the order in which topics were to be covered throughout the year, it should be glued into the front of the first book that they used. If any student (or parent) wishes another Scope and Sequence or any of the topic Outcome sheets please don’t hesitate to ask, either the classroom teacher or myself. We are more than happy to provide you with them if they have been misplaced.

Thank you for supporting your child through this tough end of the school year. Please contact your child’s teacher or myself if you need assistance or would like to discuss the upcoming examinations.

Mrs Villanueva
Head Teacher Science
Aboriginal Education

Just a friendly reminder that Kirinari homework centre runs every Thursday in the Library from 3pm to 4pm, except Week 4 and Week 8. Any Aboriginal students who require assistance with homework or assessment tasks are welcome to attend. There are 2-3 tutors who are available at Kirinari to help students with their school work on Thursday afternoons.

On 9 September the Aboriginal students in Years 9-12 attended workshops on job readiness and study skills. The Aboriginal students in Years 7-8 attended a workshop on study skills.

The job readiness workshops involved students learning interview skills, how to write a resume and body language in interviews. The study skills workshops involved students learning study techniques, creating study timetables and the appropriate type of environment to study in. The students participated well in the workshops and gained a lot of new knowledge.

Renee Eagles
Aboriginal Education Co-ordinator

Girls Advisor Report – Term 4

Our annual Girls Day Celebration is fast approaching, and I am really excited to be able to reveal some of the activities that we have planned. Our girls will be able to choose from a variety of activities to participate in, including Zumba, hip hop, self-defence, cooking, jewellery making and more! The structure of the day will be similar to previous years: there will be a welcome assembly to start the day, followed by the first activity session, lunch and then the second activity session. Notes about the selection of activity sessions will be given to all our girls during week 3 and will need to be returned promptly to ensure that all the girls receive their preference for activities. It is shaping up to be a really fun day and I hope that all our girls will participate in this exciting initiative.

Sarah Wellington
Girls Adviser

Transition

TASTER days

Term 3 TASTER lessons for Mount Annan and Currans Hill Primary School were a great success with again a large number of staff giving up their time to demonstrate to Year 6 students what they can expect in high school. During this term we will host the students from other primary schools on 29 October. Parents have been contacted directly about this event.

Also during term 4 we will be visiting our two main feeder schools with our ‘Crossing the Bridge’ workshops. Ms Bos and Mr Garland, our Year 7 Advisers for 2016 will be visiting along with myself to lead students through 3 activities aimed at further preparing students for the next step in their education. The activities involved sport, craft and information lessons. They are usually very well received and form an important bridge to the future.

Enrolment in 2016

We are still accepting applications for enrolment in 2016. If parents would like to meet and perhaps tour the school this can easily be arranged on a case by case basis.

Rob Ulrich
Transition coordinator

SaverPlus

After 12 years, Saver Plus has been refunded again to assist low-income families, and individuals who are studying, to

1. Develop a savings habit,
2. Further their money skills and
3. Receive up to $500 free matched savings to spend on education expenses – uniforms, computers, subject fees, after-school activities, camps and much more!

We are NOW OPEN for new people to join and start saving for a better future.

Anyone who ticks the boxes of eligibility is welcome to join –

1. 18 yrs and over, and
2. Centrelink Healthcare or Pension Card, and
3. A child in school or studying themselves (2015 or 2016 ok), and
4. Some income from ‘work’ – them or their partner or even a child’s income – part-time, full-time, casual or even cash in hand is eligible.

Information is attached. Any questions, call Liz.

Liz Tinney
Phone 46 333 722 or Mobile 0407 310 205

Damfest

Please find attached information on the upcoming Warragamba Damfest on Sunday 18 October.

NDIS Forum

The Macarthur Disability Network is organising an NDIS Forum to prepare people with a disability and families with young children with a disability for this new scheme that is set to expand services for all people with disabilities, by providing them with more choice and control, as well as work towards their dreams and aspirations.

This will be held on Tuesday 20 October from 10.00am – 2.00pm at Camden Civic Centre.
Looking for Host Families

As John Steinbeck, Nobel Laureate in Literature, wrote: "No man really knows about other human beings. The best he can do is to suppose that they are like himself."

Getting to know another person, especially one from a different culture, can be exciting, challenging, and has its unique benefits. Department of Education-registered and approved Southern Cross Cultural Exchange (since 1983) is providing such a unique experience to help your children and family learn through bridging cultures, grow closer with one another, understand one another better and see the world in a new light.

International exchange students from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the USA are arriving in Australia to live as a local with volunteer Australian families and attend a local secondary school. The students, aged 15 – 17, arrive from February 2016 for 3, 5, or 10 months and are fully insured, with their own pocket money. If you have a spare room or bed, and a place at the family table, why not be the "heart" of cultural exchange by becoming a volunteer host family?

Expand your world for the whole family – all without any air tickets. Call S.C.C.E. now on 1800 500 501 or email scceuast@scce.com.au or visit www.scce.com.au and ask for our incoming student profiles, choose the nationality you prefer, and start having fun matching up your hobbies and interests.

Capture the spirit of fun and friendship, and build your global cultural network. After all, it is different cultures that “make the world go ‘round” at the end of the day.

**Kind regards**

**Southern Cross Cultural Exchange**

Japanese School Excursion

The annual student exchange between high school students from Camden and Narellan areas and students from Kashiwa City in Japan is planned for the October holidays 2016.

If you are interested in finding out more details about this exciting opportunity, please contact Jay Lim from MAHS on 4648 0111.

There will be an information evening early in 2016.

Macarthur No Interest Loan Scheme

Macarthur NILS lends up to $1200.00 for a variety of essential household items such as refrigerators, washing machines, household furniture and computers. We also lend for essential services such as green slips.

Our loans can also help families with children take part in school camps, major sporting representation, and to have complete school uniforms.

Repayments are tailored to suit your budget and start at around $30 a fortnight.

**All of our loans have no interest and no charges.**

You can apply for a loan if you have lived in the Macarthur area for the past three months, have a Health Care Card or a Centrelink Pension Card, and have enough in your budget to easily repay a loan.

To apply please call us on 4625 6487 or email us at admin@macarthurnils.org.au. We are located at 22 Iolanthe Street, Campbelltown.

We have also attached our service’s brochure for your information.

Camden Youth Outreach

Please find attached information on an assortment of activities offered through Camden’s Youth Outreach program.

P&C Fundraising News

As a P&C fundraising initiative, we have joined the Quickbeds Grassroot Fundraising Program. For every hotel accommodation that parents book through Quickbeds, using our unique club code and link, our school will receive a percentage of the booking cost.

For more information, please collect a leaflet from the office or contact Brooke Groat on 4648 0111.

**Michelle Delaney**
Fundraising Co-ordinator

The Next E-Newsletter

The next E-Newsletter will come out on Wednesday 28 October 2015.

Term Four Assessment Schedule

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<th>PDHPE, Science, TAS, CAPA</th>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Commerce – Yearly Exam</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>PDHPE – Yearly Exam</td>
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### Year 11

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<td>Week 5</td>
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<td>PDHPE – Yearly Exam IST</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
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<td>Industrial Technology – Building &amp; Construction Childcare Studies</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Japanese – Task 4</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Food Technology</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
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### Year 12

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<th>Faculty</th>
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<th>PDHPE, Science, TAS, CAPA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
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<td>CAFS – IRP all term SLR – Ongoing Practical Assessment</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Mathematics General 2 Mathematics Advanced Mathematics Ext 1</td>
<td>Multimedia – Task 1 IDT – Cluster A</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Mathematics Ext 2</td>
<td>PDHPE – Task 1 Biology – Assessment Task 1 Chemistry – Assessment Task 1 Physics – Assessment Task 1 Senior Science – Assessment Task 1 Music - Composition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Standard English – Area of Study CAFS – IRP due</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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